

Message Text

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S/PRS - MR. TRATTNER

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, MARR

SUBJECT: TURKISH NOTE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND CYPRUS:

-- PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING

JUNE 17 RE TURKISH NOTE ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND

MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND CLERIDES ON CYPRUS:

QUOTE: Q: HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE TEXT OF A TURKISH NOTE
CONCERNING AMERICAN BASES?

A: YES. DONALD BERGUS WHO, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, IS OUR
UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OUT THERE, WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN
OFFICE AT 11:00 A.M. ANKARA TIME AND WAS GIVEN A NOTE FROM
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THIS NOTE
AND WE ARE STUDYING IT. THAT NOTE, AS THE PRESS HAS

ALREADY INDICATED, INVITES US TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN THIRTY DAYS ON THE FUTURE OF U.S. DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY. AND AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW ITS CONTENTS IN GREATER DETAIL, I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION. BUT I MIGHT ADD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REMAINS CONVINCED

THAT IT IS IN THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE NATO ALLIANCE AND CERTAINLY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE EMBARGO ON ARMS TO TURKEY, WHICH WAS IMPOSED ON FEBRUARY 5, BE LIFTED; AND WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING ACTIVELY TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

Q: DID WE HAVE A HAND IN THE PREPARATION OF THE NOTE BY ANY CHANCE?

A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO. THIS NOTE FOLLOWED, SHALL I SAY, THE DELIBERATION, I BELIEVE IT WAS YESTERDAY, OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AND THEN THERE WAS A TURKISH CABINET MEETING, AFTER WHICH WE RECEIVED THE NOTE.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY GROUNDS FOR CONCERN IN THE TURKISH STATEMENT THAT AT THE END OF THIRTY DAYS THE AMERICAN BASES WILL BE IN A PROVISIONAL STATUS?

A: FRANKLY, WE JUST GOT THE NOTE A MATTER OF HOURS AGO, AND I WOULD REALLY PREFER NOT TO COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT YOU OBVIOUSLY SHOULD RAISE WITH REGARD TO THE NOTE. I THINK WE ARE STUDYING IT NOW AND I HAVE JUST GOT TO LEAVE IT THERE FOR TODAY.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THIS ACTIVE WORK TO GET THE ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED CONSISTS OF? ARE YOU LOBBYING ON THE HILL, OR WHAT IS GOING ON?

A: AS I THINK WE HAVE STATED MANY TIMES HERE -- THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY HAS STATED IT MANY TIMES, THE PRESIDENT, MR. NESSEN -- WE ARE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN THE HOPE THAT THE BILL WHICH IS NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED BY CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON -- AND THIS BILL IS IDENTICAL TO THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL WHICH HAS PASSED THE SENATE -- WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS IN THE HOPE THAT THIS BILL WILL BE PASSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Q: PROBABLY EVERYONE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS BUT ME. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE AND HAVEN'T BEEN FOLLOWING IT. IN LIFTING THE EMBARGO, THE EMBARGO CONSISTED SIMPLY OF

CONGRESS VOTING TO ENFORCE THE TERMS OF THE AID AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS A CUT-OFF OF AID IF ARMS WERE USED FOR OTHER THAN SELF-DEFENSE PURPOSES. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT LIFTING THE EMBARGO IN THIS BILL, ARE YOU GOING TO

CHANGE THE BASIC TERMS OF THE AID AGREEMENT, OR ARE YOU JUST MAKING AN EXCEPTION? I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THIS.

A: IF YOU WOULD PERMIT ME TO GET THE TEXT OF THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL -- THIS IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AND I DO NOT HAVE THAT HERE ON THE PODIUM -- I WILL GET IT FOR YOU RIGHT AFTERWARDS. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: WOULD THE ADMINISTRATION LIKE TO RISK HAVING THAT BILL COME TO A VOTE RIGHT NOW IN THE HOUSE?

A: WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, AS I SAID EARLIER, THIS BILL PASSED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC TIMING, I DON'T WISH TO SPECULATE.

Q: MR. CLERIDES WAS IN TODAY TO SEE THE SECRETARY. CAN YOU GIVE US THE U.S. EVALUATION OF WHETHER -- NOT THE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH I AM SURE WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL -- BUT WHETHER THIS WILL ACCELERATE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS?

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A: I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION DIRECTLY. YOU ARE CORRECT WITH REGARD TO THE ATMOSPHERE.

Q: THEY WERE FRIENDLY?

A: YES. THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS AND A DISCUSSION OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. I HAVE, INCIDENTALLY, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DID NOT HEAR MR. CLERIDES, AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR YOU THE EXCHANGE THAT HE HAD WITH THE PRESS DOWN IN THE LOBBY. THEY MET FOR ABOUT AN HOUR IN A GROUP AND THEN MR. CLERIDES AND DR. KISSINGER MET FIFTEEN MINUTES ALONE AT THE END.

Q: WELL, WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE? SINCE THEY DISCUSSED IT, SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT THE PROSPECTS ARE.

A: WELL, AS MR. CLERIDES SAID, IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT, COMPLICATED PROBLEM. WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT WHEN -- I BELIEVE IT IS JULY 24 -- THE NEXT ROUND IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE, OF THE TALKS BETWEEN MR. DENKTASH AND MR.

CLERIDES, THAT FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE.

BUT IT IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION. THERE IS NO QUESTION
ABOUT IT. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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